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of
South Australia Inc

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NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
POST OFFICE BOX 565 UNLEY SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5061

The Native Orchid Society of South Australia promotes the conservation of orchids through the preservation of natural habitat and through cultivation. Except with the documented official representation of the management committee, no person may represent the Society on any matter. All native orchids are protected in the wild; their collection without written Government permit is illegal.

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JOURNAL OF THE NATIVE ORCHID SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.

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NEXT MEETING 22 MARCH 2004

Tuesday, 22 March, St Matthew's Hall, Bridge Street, Kensington. Meeting starts at 8:00 p.m. Doors to the hall will be open from 7:15 p.m. to allow Members access to the Library and trading table. The Meeting begins with the AGM. Two new committee members will be sought. The speaker for the meeting is Jane Higgs on Preserving Remnant Vegetation in the Myponga Basin.

DIARY DATES

25-28 March	Easter in the South East.
Friday 6 May	Annual Dinner
August (dates to be announced)	Caroona Creek CP
17-18 September	NOSSA Spring Show
13-19 September	WA Orchid Spectacular
4 December	Annual BBQ

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Wed, 30th March at the home of **Malcolm Guy.** Meeting commences at 7:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY MEETING

Epiphytes benched
Dendrobium Wasyl (Edda x *speciosum*)
Dendrobium Hilda Poxon
Parachilus Victor
Terrestrials benched
Genoplesium rufum

Judging results
Epiphyte Hybrid
1st *Dendrobium* Hilda Poxon grown by Graham & Sue Zerbe
2nd *Dendrobium* Wasyl grown by Russell Job & Edda Viskic
3rd *Parachilus* Victor grown by Graham & Sue Zerbe
There were no species benched

Terrestrial Species
1st *Genoplesium rufum* grown by Les Nesbitt
There were no 2nd or 3rd species or any hybrids benched

Plant of the night
Dendrobium Hilda Poxon grown by Graham & Sue Zerbe

Popular vote
Parachilus Victor grown by Graham & Sue Zerbe

FEBRUARY SPEAKER
Joe Quarmby of DEH gave a power point presentation on orchid recovery plans with emphasis on those species occurring on Yorke Peninsula in particular *Arachnorchis* (*Caladenia*) *macroclavia*.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION - NOSSA NEWS

FIELD TRIP

25-28 Mar 2005 Easter in the South East.
Special Midge Orchid (*Corunastylis* spp) field trip to South-East. **March 25th- 27th**. Meet Friday and Saturday mornings at Glencoe P.O. at **9.30**. We hope to see such species as *Corunastylis despectans, C. ciliata, C. aff rufa, C. pumila* and un-named species at such locations as Honans Scrub, Kangaroo Flat, The Marshes, Bangham and Mt Monster CP.

For those who are as confused as I was, **Caroona** is the correct spelling for that conservation park. It had appeared in the February journal twice, incorrectly spelt both times [Ed.]

NEW MEMBER: Mrs Patricia Ratcliffe is welcomed by NOSSA committee and members.

Bill Fisher is selling out his orchids at 50%. For appointment contact 8381 1019.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Bodo Jensen, President

My second year as president of NOSSA certainly started on the right note! The topic of the first guest-speaker (Graham Zerbe) was "How I was bitten by the orchid-bug". An appropriate subject for the first meeting of the year! I wonder if we all still remember.

The committee worked tirelessly throughout the year to make sure we had a wide range of interesting speakers. Some of these came from our own ranks and a few came from interstate. Brian Tindall presented a slide-show and talk on terrestrial orchids in the wild, and Ray Clements entertained us in his usual way on how to grow aussie natives. He also brought lots of quality plants for sale. Thanks to Bub and Don Wells for billeting him during his visit! - We were also treated to slide-shows from Papua New Guinea, Queensland, Western Australia and Mount Kosciusko, and one on threatened orchids of South Australia.

To raise the profile of our society we partcipated in many different events. For instance we had an information-display at the spring-show of the Australian Plants Society, and again at their autumn-show we had a display-stand and plant-sale. We also took part in the Home and Garden Expo, the Environment-expo at Warrawong, and, in conjunction with Lofty Block Threatened Orchids, at the Minlaton Show. At all these events we used static displays. - Malcolm and Cathy Houston revisited Upper Sturt Primary School to note any changes to orchids growing in the school-grounds. - Other members of the society were guest-speakers at garden-clubs, conservation-groups and orchid-clubs to spread our message: "to promote the conservation of orchids through the preservation of natural habitat and cultivation".

Our conservation-group was very busy this year. Numerous weeding and field-trips were undertaken, and a major rescue-dig was held in Kuitpo Forest, where many plants were saved from certain destruction.

At our spring-show our display was second to none and very well visited by the public. This, together with our efforts throughout the year to raise our public profile, resulted in quite a few new members signing up, which was very satisfying! - The tuber-bank coordinator, Malcolm Guy, completed twenty-eight orders! I'd like to thank all the members who donated tubers!
Many members and their partners took part at the annual dinner at the Buckingham Arms, where we all very much enjoyed the extensive smorgasbord, and the B.B.Q at the Walloscheck home was, as always, well attended. We all had a good time, and as usual the weather was very hot on that day. Thankyou to Shirley and Wally!

Our last meeting for the year (in November) was as lively as ever. Many members brought plants, books and knick-knacks to be auctioned for the benefit of the society. So we raised a fair bit of money on that occation! Thank You all for contributing! - The supper after the meeting was thoroughly enjoyable, with everyone in high spirits, looking forward to christmas.
Now, to conclude, I'd like to thank all of you for making this a very successful year! Without the dedicated members of the committee, and, certainly, without members willing to set up and clean the hall, sell raffle-tickets, man the trading-table, look after the library, set up the sound-system and slide-projectors, provide coffee and tea, and, of course, judge the many plants brought by members, it would all not have been possible.
Thank You!

How It Is Done

Reg Shooter

Due to the time of the year not many plants were benched at the February meeting, just three epiphyte hybrids, two *Dendrobium*'s and one *Sarcochilus*. The only terrestrial species was *Genoplesium rufum*.

The *Sarcochilus* was labelled *Parachilus* Victor. This is a result of taxonomic changes that have not been accepted by the registration body the Royal Horticultural Society. That body shows it to be *Sarcochilus*. Alec Dockrill created the genus *Parachilus* way back in 1967 the name referring to its similarity to *Sarcochilus*, *para* being Greek for similar or near to.

The species in the background of the hybrid is *Sarcochilus* or (*Parachilus*) *hirticalcar* depending which authority one accepts. This is all very confusing to the average grower and results in misunderstandings between groups. However, that aside the species *hirticalcar*, whether it is called *Sarcochilus* or *Parachilus*, is an interesting species introducing several desirable traits into its progeny. It tends to flower very early in the year, just after Xmas when there are not a lot of orchids around. The flower colour being cream to yellow introduces that colour into progeny. When crossed with a colourful hybrid that has *Sarco fitzgeraldii* in its make up *many* lovely colour combinations are produced as in the plant benched by Graham & Sue Zerbe.

Prcls Victor (Prcls is the abbreviation for *Parachilus*) is easy to grow and flower producing short racemes on small plants of creamy yellow flowers overlaid with red blushing. The flowers are not large, only about 15mm across but they fully open and sit nicely on the raceme. The flowers of the hybrid, like its parent, are produced in succession each flower lasting up to eight weeks.

A O F Awareness Campaign
Mealy Bugs

Mealy bugs are listed to be one of the scale family but these pests do NOT form an armoured scale covering. They are soft bodied and covered in a waxy cottony secretion. They have well developed legs and often retain this power throughout their life cycle.
Like all scale insects, they excrete honeydew in large amounts and this has a great attraction to ants. The females can lay 100 to 200 eggs that can hatch in 14 days time, then crawlers disperse to their feeding grounds. The complete life cycle of these pests is estimated to be 10 weeks. The mealy bug often use below the surface of the potting media for resting or nesting periods, and as soon as the new growth or the flower buds begin to develop, the bugs become active almost overnight.

CARE…….inspect under surface of the leaves, any folds or behind the old bracts which may surround the bulb that can be a good hiding spot.

CONTROL…..white oil mixed with malathion, Rogor or any good systemic insecticide.

WARNING…. Use all chemicals only after reading the prescribed instructions on the label or package. Never use this spray on a dry plant, make sure it is well watered before spraying.
Never use this spray or swab on a hot day or if the plant may be exposed to very strong light, burning may occur.

‘Replacement’ and ‘Secondary’ flower spikes in *Dipodium* near Adelaide during an above average season.

By Bob Bates

Introduction: Due to better than average rainfall and milder temperatures the summer of 2004-5 saw one of the best flowerings on record for *Dipodium* species in the Adelaide Hills.
For our spring flowered terrestrials if a flower spike is chewed off it is never replaced, but for *Dipodium* this rule does not apply, at least in wet summers.

Observations:
In a hot dry summer *Dipodium* flowers soon begin to scorch, buds abort and scapes remain short, usually about 30cm tall. Flowering tapers off toward the end of January. But this season has been different.
At the beginning of December 2004 there appeared to about the usual number of *Dipodium* flower spikes appearing throughout the Hills.
The writer kept a close watch on several large populations of *Dipodium roseum* at Scott Creek and in the Stirling area.
Rainfall was above average with heavy rain in December, January and early February with conditions mild, often cloudy, without 40 degree plus temperatures and only one or two hot windy days.

Many spikes were eaten by kangaroos or slashed off during mowing and it was noticed that for a number of plants where this occurred a replacement node at about ground level quickly developed into a replacement flower spike. These flower spikes developed quickly and were not as tall as primary spikes, nor did they have as many flowers, nevertheless they too had already started to develop capsules by late February.

Toward the end of January it was observed that new flower spikes had begun to emerge at several sites, often close to mature flowering spikes already developing seed capsules. These are regarded as secondary flower spikes and are rarely seen in other South Australian orchids other than the evergreen *Cryptostylis, Spiranthes* and possibly *Gastrodia.* It will be noted that all four genera are mostly summer growing!

Toward the end of February primary flower spikes of *D. roseum* had reached record heights up to 100cm. One near Milan Terrace Aldgate showed ten large seed capsules and ten flowers still open. Scattered around this plant were five short secondary spikes less than 30cm with more buds than flowers.
Some plants were seen well away from the suspected Stringy Bark host trees, indeed there were spikes in blackberry bushes and one in the dense shade of a copse of wild holly.
No *Dipodium pardalinum* were seen at Scott Creek or Stirling but six spikes were counted east of Uraidla and two near Cherryville… slightly more than usual for the species which is at the very edge of its range here.

Conclusions:
Dipodium can be regarded as an evergreen genus even though our local species are leafless. The flowers show it to be more closely related to epiphytic genera such as *Dendrobium* so it is not surprising that secondary and replacement flower spikes occur under ideal conditions.

A SURVEY OF INNES NATIONAL PARK 7/09/04 – 10/09/04

Cathy Houston

The Native Orchid Society of South Australia was asked to take part in a survey of parts of Innes National Park, prior to the proposed release of Tammar wallabies. Six members of N.O.S.S.A. and a number of Department of Environment and Heritage personnel surveyed two sites thoroughly and a third to a slightly lesser extent. The areas searched were Inneston, Chinamans Hat and Pondelowie. Each day we were fortunate to have one or more staff members with us.

At Inneston two searches were undertaken. The first area comprised open mallee with coastal heath with some exposed limestone (area 1), open grassland (area 2), and closed heath (area 3). We walked at regularly spaced intervals as much as was physically possible. Orchid species and density were noted at 20m intervals. Species with a conservation rating were noted with GPS coordinates and plant numbers. The second search was in adjoining mallee with little understorey and occasionally exposed limestone (area 4) [This area was surveyed on a subsequent day because fine rain had started during the morning and continued throughout most of the first day]. By the end of the morning everyone was thoroughly wet, so we retired to our accommodation (a cottage at Inneston) and set about building a fire in the open fireplace. In fact, the speed with which our clothes were drying was not satisfactory so Ken Bayley built another fire. It must be understood that no other form of heating/drying was available because the cottage was completely devoid of electricity (240v that is). We had gas for cooking and solar lighting. It was an interesting experience which took some of us back to our childhood days! Needless to say there was no searching during the afternoon. Late in the day the rain eased, so we set off back towards the start of the park. Two members, who had arrived early, took us to an area (area 10) where they had found *Caladenia fragrantissima* in flower. We got a reasonable distance into the heath and away from the vehicles when the rain started again! No *C. fragrantissima* seen that day.

Searching at Chinamans Hat was done similarly to that at Inneston. There was open grassland (area 5) followed by open heath (area 6) which then gave way to almost closed mallee with some *Melaleuca*, a heathy understorey and some exposed limestone (area 7). We concentrated mainly on the latter, since this was the primary orchid area. In some places it was not possible to penetrate the vegetation. This was the only place where we found *Diuris orientis*; some beautiful specimens on tall stems were concentrated here. No orchids were present in the grasslands, these being mainly introduced grasses.
At the end of this day we again made an attempt to see *C. fragrantissima*. After pushing through heath with some mallee, we eventually located the site. Several fresh flowers were scattered through the area and the cameras were working overtime. Fortunately there was enough interest for all the photographers to be active most of the time and some prized "portraits" were captured. Then someone looked westwards; it was black and we were about to get wet again! We beat a hasty retreat towards the vehicles, but the rain arrived first. We decided that these *Caladenias* were being protected and we were not supposed to have a "good" time there.

At Pondelowie the system was more random searching. This consisted of two habitats, viz. mallee/heath on sandy rises (area 8) and flats of open heath with some exposed limestone

(area 9). The mallee/heath was not searched very much. The flats were searched fairly extensively, this being an area where *Prasophyllum* species were of interest. It had the highest representation of *Prasophyllum calcicola*, there being some very highly coloured forms which begged the question "are they different?" This was also the only habitat where *Prasophyllum occidentale* was found. [Subsequently it has turned out that there is also *P.* aff *occidentale* here.]

A number of hand-held UHF radios were spread among the group, thanks to Di and June. This meant that no-one missed out on anything of significant interest. Through the radio we were now being asked if we were to G.P.S. the "wriggly sticks", such being the number of snakes that were encountered. Once again it was Barb Bayley who nearly trod on a couple of young brown snakes basking on the sand.

In the afternoon we walked the Browns Beach trail (area 11), this being mainly mallee/heath. This was an area which N.O.S.S.A. had covered in 1998 when they spent a weekend at Innes N. Park. Simon, a young trainee at the park accompanied us on this walk. His enthusiasm and willingness to learn about our orchids was outstanding. We were able, at a subsequent stop down the road (area 12), to show him *C. fragrantissima*, something which his other workmates did not see. In fact, each staff member with us had an opportunity to see at least one orchid which their other colleagues did not see.

In an area of mallee near Inneston Di and June had made a noteworthy discovery before the rest of us arrived. Until now, *Acianthus caudatus* had not been reliably reported from Yorke Peninsula. They found a very small colony (area 15) with about a dozen flowers in habitat not dissimilar from that in which it is found on Kangaroo Island. This was probably the highlight of the whole trip, there being several from which to choose. Next to this was the frequency with which we found *C. bicalliata* and *P. calcicola*, both species with conservation ratings. The former has a short flowering season; the latter has a very restricted range. Both these species were encountered in a majority of the search areas. Another species encountered frequently and in considerable numbers was *Thelymitra nuda.* The leaves and buds of these were more reminiscent of some of the *T. pauciflora* group, small buds and narrow leaves with strong red bases. It would appear that they are one of the un-named *T. nuda* group.

On the final day two members visited two more habitats before we departed. The first area was once again mallee with very little understorey (area 13). It was here that we first saw Bridal Veil. Apparently there are several infestations known within the park. The second habitat was low coastal heath (area 14). A number of *C. stricta* in bud, flower and pod, were found here. This is in contrast to all other areas where plant numbers were low. Of particular interest were some *Prasophyllums* with buds still in the leaves, where as *P. carnossum* was nearly at flowering stage.

In conclusion, we must thank D.E.H. personnel and the Senior Rangers at Innes National Park, for their kind hospitality to us, for making available a number of their staff to come out with us, and for the accommodation. We were impressed with the way each staff member learnt about the orchids and how quickly they managed to "get their eye in". Following our visit, Andy Sharp (Conservation Planning Manager) has organised some identification material for the staff and is encouraging them to undertake orchid surveys of their own.

		Area												
		1	3	4	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Acianthus	caudatus													f
Acianthus	pusillus	sf	p	sf		p	sf		sf				l	p
Caladenia	aff. tensa			f						b				f
Caladenia	aff. verrucosa										b			
Caladenia	bicalliata	f	p	f		p		b	f	f			p	
Caladenia	capillata	f		f		f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f	f
Caladenia	carnea			f	f	f		f	f	f		f		f
Caladenia	fragrantissima								f		f			
Caladenia	latifolia	f		p		p	f	f	f	f	f		p	
Caladenia	sp.	l												
Caladenia	stricta	f					b		f	f	f		f	
Corybas	despectans	p	p	p		p	p		p	p		p	p	p
Cyrtostylis	robusta	p		f		f	p	p		l	p	l	l	l
Diuris	orientis					f								
Diuris	palustris							f			f		p	
Microtis	sp.	b	l		b	l	l	b	l	b	b		b	
Pheladenia	deformis	f												
Prasophyllum	aff. occidentale							f						
Prasophyllum	calcicola			f		f		f		f	f		f	
Prasophyllum	carnossum								b				b	
Prasophyllum	elatum									l ?				
Prasophyllum	occidentale							f						
Prasophyllum	sp.									b			l	
Pterostylis	aff. longifolia			f		p				p		f	p	f
Pterostylis	erythroconcha			p		p				f	sf			
Pterostylis	nana									f				
Pterostylis	pedunculata									f				
Pterostylis	robusta					sf								
Pterostylis	sanguinea			p										
Thelymitra	nuda	b		b		b			b	b		b	b	

l - leaf, b - bud, f - flower, sf - spent flower, p - pod.

The Genus *Cadetia* Gaud. 1826 **Len Field**

The genus was named by Charles Gaudichaud-Beaupre in 1826 who named the genus in honour of C.L. Cadet de Gassicourt a turn of the 19th century French chemist. A genus of over 50 species which extends from India, East Asia. Indonesia, New Guinea and Australia with the heaviest concentration in New Guinea which has about 40 species. In Australia there are four species all confined to north Queensland two of which are endemic and the other two extend to New Guinea and Asia. All species are mainly epiphytic but some can at times be found growing as lithophytes.

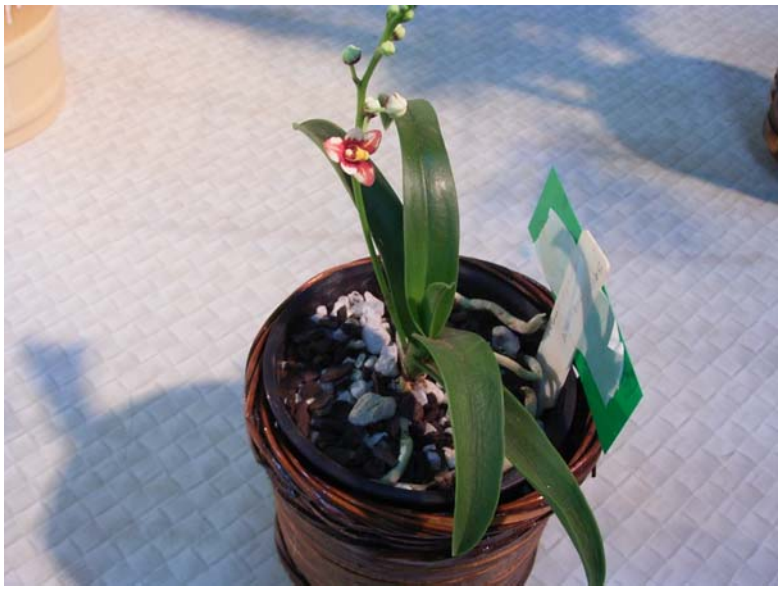
All plants are small epiphytes that can grow into large dense clumps and do prefer to live a rain-forest existence, but can also be found growing in open forests. All species have but a single leaf that is fleshy, flat and can be either broad or narrow. This solitary leaf grows from a stem that has a single node that is very slender or can be swollen into a slender pseudo-bulb that is spaced along a spreading rhizome.

Flowers with few exceptions are always white and are produced on slender stalks with some species having long lived flowers while others are short lived. Although reasonably rare in collections they are mostly an easy orchid to grow but as they come mostly from the tropics a minimum temperature of at least 10°celsius during the colder months would be beneficial and while they mostly grow in rain forests most of the species do prefer reasonable light intensity.

Epiphytes benched at February Meeting

Dendrobium Wasyl
Grown by R. Job & E. Viskic

Dendrobium Hilda Poxon
Grown by G. & S. Zerbe



Sarcochilus (*Parachilus*) Victor
Grown by G. & S. Zerbe

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